In the Claims

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A slot filler adapted for usage in a rack cabinet ~~and~~ configured to accept a plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots capable of securing the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel adapted to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent housing-contained electronic device and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

2. (Original): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:

the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; and

the blanking panel attaches to the columns.

3. (Previously presented): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:

the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and

the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

4. (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A slot filler ~~according to Claim 1 wherein the slot filler is~~ adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment 1U devices having a box structure, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots adapted to secure the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel configured to cover ~~the unoccupied slot~~ an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a box-structured body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of ~~the~~ a housing-contained 1U electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent housing-contained electronic device and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that ~~prevents~~ is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

5. (Original): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron.

6. (Original): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate.

7. (Previously presented): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:
the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth, the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

8. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:
a rack cabinet adapted to hold a plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater;
an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;
a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and adapted to secure the stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices; and
a slot filler comprising:
a blanking panel capable of covering an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

9. (Original): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; and
the blanking panel attaches to the columns.

10. (Previously presented): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and
the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

11. (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A system ~~according to Claim 8~~ comprising:
a rack cabinet adapted to hold a plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices;
an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;
a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and adapted to secure the stacked housing-contained electronic devices; and
a slot filler ~~wherein the slot filler is~~ adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked standard electronic equipment 1U devices having a box structure, the slot filler comprising:
a blanking panel configured to cover ~~the unoccupied slot~~ an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and
a box-structured body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of ~~the~~ a housing-contained 1U electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent housing-contained electronic device and/or slot filler leaves an air

flow gap from the air inlet to exit that ~~prevents~~ is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

12. (Original): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron.

13. (Original): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate.

14. (Previously presented): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth, the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

15. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:
encasing a plurality of housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater in a housing having multiple slots for receiving the housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices arranged in a stack;
directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices from an air inlet to an exit;
inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots between the plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices; and
arranging the plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently

small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

16. (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A method ~~according to Claim 15 further~~ of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

encasing a plurality of housing-contained electronic devices in a housing having multiple slots for receiving the housing-contained electronic devices arranged in a stack;

directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices from an air inlet to an exit;

inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots between the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices;

arranging the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent housing-contained electronic devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet; and

selecting dimensions and form of the slot fillers to emulate a box-structured 1U electronic device.

17. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising:

receiving the cooling airstream flow into the housing from an air inlet in a front portion of the housing; and

venting warm air from the stacked standard electronic equipment nU devices to an exit in a rear portion of the housing.

18. (Previously presented): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising:

covering the slot filler in an unoccupied slot with an ornamental covering.

19. (Previously presented): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising:

adjusting slot filler length for extension into the housing a controlled depth selected from a group of actions consisting of adjusting at least one telescoping joint in a telescoping body, breaking the body structure along a perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at a selected depth into the rack

cabinet, and sliding a plurality of rigid rectangular plates relative to one another.

20. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a housing with a plurality of slots regularly arranged in a stack for receiving multiple housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater, the housing having an air inlet and an air exit for passing cooling air through the housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices;

at least one housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device inserted into at least one of the plurality of slots; and

at least one slot filler inserted into the a slot of the plurality of slots, the slot fillers having dimensions that emulate dimensions of a housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device,

the at least one housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device and the slot filler having an arrangement when inserted into the slots so that clearance between the adjacent slot fillers and/or housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device is an air flow gap that extends from the air inlet to the air exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

21. (Currently Amended): A system for controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

means for encasing a plurality of housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater;

means within the encasing means for receiving the plurality of housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices arranged in a stack;

means for directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices from an air inlet to an exit; and

means for filling any unoccupied receiving means, the receiving means, standard electronic equipment nU devices, and filling means being arranged with a selected clearance between adjacent standard electronic equipment nU devices and/or filling means leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit

that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.